TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, October 6, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended October 1 totaled 20.2 billion ton-miles, up 1.3 percent from the 19.9 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 39 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 747.8 billion ton-miles carried, up 6.9 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended October 1 totaled 461,666, up 1.1 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 1.9 percent above the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were down 2.3 percent in the East, but up 4.9 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, twelve of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Loadings of motor vehicles and equipment were up 2,172 cars (10.5 percent); loadings of coal increased by 2,232 cars (1.7 percent); but grain was down 5,288 cars (15.1 percent). Fifteen of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended September 24 totaled 121,770 trailers and/or containers, up 5.5 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 38 weeks of the year was 4,166,539 trailers and/or containers, up 5.6 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 10/1/88:

	Loadings in Week ended October 1, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	29,833	D	5,288	15.1	D	669	2.2
Other farm products	3,488	D	459	11.6	I	236	7.3
Metallic ores	22,374	I	13	0.1	I	1,547	7.4
Coal	130,874	I	2,232	1.7	I	1,439	1.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	19,911	I	1,087	5.8	D	234	1.2
Nonmetallic minerals	10,948	I	775	7.6	D	172	1.5
Grain mill products	11,019	D	441	3.8	D	84	0.8
Food and kindred products	11,596	D	440	3.7	I	404	3.6
Primary forest products	9,993	D	1,329	11.7	I	58	0.6
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,940	D	512	6.1	I	214	2.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,254	D	1,017	7.7	I	279	2.3
Chemicals and allied products	28,593	I	1,072	3.9	I	455	1.6
Petroleum products	5,036	I	632	14.4	I	59	1.2
Stone, clay and glass products	12,119	I	247	2.1	I	509	4.4
Coke	5,899	I	511	9.5	I	249	4.4
Metals and products	11,132	I	77	0.7	D	28	0.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,918	I	2,172	10.5	I	952	4.3
Waste and scrap materials	10,032	I	248	2.5	I	342	3.5
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,645	D	695	20.8	I	225	9.3
All other carloads	93,062	I	6,307	7.3	I	2,640	2.9
Total Cars Loaded	461,666	I	5,192	1.1	I	8,421	1.9
Corresponding week of 1987	456,474						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (39 weeks)	16,536,301	15,768,905	I 4.9
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
38 weeks ended September 24	727.6	679.3	I 7.1
Week ended October 1	20.2	19.9	I 1.3
39 Weeks cumulative	747.8	699.2	I 6.9

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